

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**October 20, 2015**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Let the record show that Stephen Jordan was absent. Also present was Donya G. Jordan, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Andree.

MINUTES: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 15, 2015. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY CREDIT FUND: Advertised in the County CREDIT Fund, Technology, Other Services & Charges, Radio Repair & Maintenance was \$155,000.00. This amount has been requested to facilitate the purchase of Motorola Inc.'s turn-key site development. Sheriff Risner stated that contracts have been signed by the County Commissioners and the project is moving forward. The initial payment of \$175,036.00 will be paid out of the Drug Forfeiture fund. Due to some changes that have taken place since the additional request, the completion date will not be taking place now until next year; therefore, the additional will not be needed for this year. Sheriff Risner requested that the **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-10A** be withdrawn.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / STATEWIDE 911 FUND: Advertised in the Statewide 911 Fund, Other Services & Charges, Data Info / Operating Expenses was \$40,000.00. Sheriff Risner explained that this request is to replenish the Sheriff Department's E-911 Operating Expenses account with funds from the County held 911 account. The bill recently submitted to CenturyLink from our budget for the new 911 servers and system update for \$201,659.10 has virtually emptied our account. Without some additional monies, we will not be able to pay billings throughout the 2015 calendar year. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-10B** as advertised. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY IDENTITY SECURITY PROTECTION FUND: Advertised in the County Identity Security Protection Fund, Other Services & Charges, Microfilm Conversion was \$36,599.00. Beth Warren, Recorder, explained per letter that this amount is being requested for the microfilm conversion project. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-10C** as advertised. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / CORONER'S BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Coroners Budget was \$6,800.00 within Personal Services and \$7,000.00 within Other Services & Charges for a total request of \$13,800.00. Andy Boersma, Coroner, stated that there have been 62 calls to date. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-10D**. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / VETERAN'S BUDGET: A request has been made by Patrick Donnelly, Veteran's Officer, to transfer \$785.00 from Other Services & Charges, Travel into Supplies, Office Supplies within the County General Fund, Veteran Service Office Budget. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BUDGET: A request has been made by Christine Haskell, Prosecuting Attorney, to transfer \$1,000.00 from Supplies, Office Supplies into Other Services & Charges, Depositions & Transcripts within the County General Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**PUBLIC HEARING / ADOPTION OF BINDING REVIEWS:**

**Rensselaer Central School Corporation:** Ned Speicher, Rensselaer Central School Corporation, reported that the School Board has adopted the 2016 budget. The adopted budget of \$17,313,047.00 is lower than what has been advertised over the last two years. When we built the new primary school, the tax rate was \$.66. Today, we are at \$.62. There was no public comment. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the budget for the Rensselaer Central School Corporation as presented. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Iroquois Conservancy District:** Dan Blaney and Dale Lehe were present on behalf of the Iroquois Conservancy District. Mr. Blaney stated that they will be doing 41 log jam removals this fall. The adopted budget amount is \$222,500.00. There was no public comment. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the budget for the Iroquois Conservancy District as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District:** Mr. Bontreger gave a brief review of the budget from last month's meeting. There was no public comment. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the budget for the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District as presented. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Jasper County Airport Authority:** Brad Cozza explained that the Rotary Fuel Fund is always listed; however, it does not have a tax levy or rate. Information regarding community hangar development was distributed and reviewed. Mr. Cozza stated that a survey of surrounding airports' tee hangar rent and accommodations was taken. The information gathered was included for the Council's review. Further discussion took place. There was no public comment. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the budget for the Jasper County Airport Authority. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT / SUMMER 2015 WRAP-UP:** Brad Cozza reviewed the 2015 summer wrap up. Mr. Cozza stated that airports are the equivalent of on and off ramps that you see for the interstates. We are hoping by year's end to have our first ever website online. The annual fly-in/drive-in and pork chop lunch was held in July.

**ADOPTION OF BINDING REVIEWS:** Mr. Price made the motion to strongly encourage the Rensselaer Central School Corporation and the Iroquois Conservancy District to stay within the required growth factor of 2.6%. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**FROST LAW:** Mr. Price stated that, as you may recall, we had 2-3 citizens at the last meeting complain about the amount of damage that is being done to our roads by the frost law violators. I have heard from a reliable source that it is a minimum of a million dollars per year in damage. I know that Attorney Beaver and the Commissioners are working on having a means of actual enforcement; however, I think we need to keep encouraging them and working on them to get that done.

**C CORPORATIONS:** In regards to the C corporations, Mr. Price stated that he knows that we have that large utility that is not allowed to get that corporate welfare but we still have a couple hundred thousand dollars that is going to the Monsantos and the WalMarts and they are not creating any additional jobs in Jasper County for that money. If we had that additional money to distribute, that would be a break for all of our farmers, homeowners and rental property owners. A couple of years ago, we sent a letter to the Legislature requesting that they take a look at that. Mr. Price stated that he feels that it might not be a bad idea to do that again. Upon request, Attorney Monfort will draw up a letter.

**CITIZEN CONCERNS / MATHIS:** Tom Mathis, citizen, expressed his disappointment with the BZA. Mr. Mathis also stated that, as of September 10, I was told by Planning & Development that no inspections have been requested or performed at Max L Farms and I'd like to know why. Mr. Mathis stated that he thinks, with all of you having the power that you have as the fiscal bodies, that you need to put some pressure on Planning & Development and the BZA to lawfully represent all of us.

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There being no further business, Mr. Andree made the motion to adjourn. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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